



The Council of Regional Chairpersons

A Council of the Presidents of Connecticut's Regional EMS Councils

BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR CONNECTICUT'S BIENNIAL BUDGET FY 2009-11

Health & Hospitals Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing

February 20, 2009

Honorable members of the Health & Hospitals subcommittee:

As proposed in the Governor's bill HB 6389 to promote regionalization, the Regional EMS Councils have been providing support to towns and EMS organizations to regionalize services since 1974. CORC recognizes the need to continue to support and advocate missions critical to patient care through regionalization. In light of the fiscal crisis facing the state, we are proposing a plan to produce financial savings and increased accountability within the Regional EMS Council system. This would involve reducing the Council work plan to selective core missions, with a corresponding reduction in funding by 20%, from \$675,000 to \$540,000.

Our Core Missions:

- Coordination of sponsor hospitals to provide:
 - Standard medical protocols
 - Representation of the region to establish state wide protocols through CEMSMAC
- Coordination of towns to provide consolidated EMS services:
 - Coordinate and assist our communities to establish regional paramedic service
 - Enhance efficient use of volunteers, resources, and promote regionalization
- Conduct and/or oversee education, training, and testing:
 - Development of a standardized EMS examination test question bank
 - Local, on-site administration of written exams
- Provide technical assistance to EMS organizations, elected officials, and members of the community:
 - Make the EMS system easier to "navigate"
 - Ease the administrative burden of Connecticut's volunteers
 - Keep system development moving forward
 - Serve as a creative resource & centralized problem solving entity

Northwestern Connecticut Emergency
Medical Services Council, Inc.

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Council of Regional Chairpersons

Increased efficiencies and cost reductions:

The Regional EMS Councils have been working together, through CORC, to improve upon the Council system. Some of the changes would require us to modify the corporate structure, requiring more time and attention to the details. Some areas we are exploring are:

- Utilizing a single source for financial services, such as accounting and audit services.
- Utilizing a single source for office technology services, such as telephone, website, and I.T. services.
- Reduction of office space expenses either through the state or other corporate partnerships.
- Reduction of staffing to a minimum of one FTE per region.
- Utilization of Council volunteers to assist in working on core missions and objectives.
- Exploring the possibility of administering a single contract, instead of five, with DPH through CORC.
- Exploring our ability to allow CORC to coordinate employee assignments and improve accountability.
- Assigning a specific employee to seek alternative funding to augment state funding through grants.

An important aspect of achieving improved efficiency and accountability will be to make the Council of Regional Chairpersons (CORC) the coordinating body for the five Regional EMS Councils.

The summary of our proposal:

The Council of Regional Chairpersons recognizes the financial crisis facing the state. The Governor's proposed budget totally eliminates the Regional EMS Council budget as of July 1, 2009. We believe that the Councils do need to be part of the solution to the financial crisis, but should not be eliminated. In the spirit of good corporate citizenship we are proposing to do our part and we will:

- Increase efficiencies
- Eliminate duplication of services
- Increase accountability
- A 20% budget reduction from \$675,000 to \$540,000
- Reduce staff to a minimum of one FTE
- Reduce services to core missions and objectives
- Seek additional alternative funding to augment state funding

The Councils are an important part of the EMS System in Connecticut. We provide essential services and support to the "grass-roots" individuals in our system and alleviate the burdens of bureaucracy. We respectfully ask you to please consider our request.

Thank you for the support you have given to us through the years, and for the opportunity to present our proposal.

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Connecticut's Regional Emergency Medical Services Councils

February 2009

Connecticut's five Regional Emergency Medical Services Councils provide the leadership and tools to keep the EMS community in a state of readiness. Regional programs and services are crucial to continued development and the stability of the EMS System.

Direct support to our EMS Providers

- Local, on-site administration of EMS exams
- Instructor evaluations: data to OEMS & the Instructor
- Evaluate and recommend EMS-Instructor Candidates
- Provided workshops, seminars, and training
- Local Informational Forums to resolve system issues
- Technical assistance provided regarding state mandates
- Coordination of local training: SMART Triage/Mark 1
- Dissemination of critical information in a timely manner
- Training equipment available free for the community
- Operate as a conduit between "grass-roots" EMS providers and the Connecticut EMS Advisory Board.

System Development & Evaluation

- Evaluate, make recommendations, approve applications, and advocate for:
 - Need-for Service requests
 - Primary Service Area Responder application
 - Mobile Intensive Care Applications
 - EMS Course Applications
 - Equipment Grant Applications
- Guide and assist communities with Local EMS Plans
- Lead advances on state-wide policies and guidelines
- Facilitate implementation of state-wide system changes

Our vision: Readiness. Every citizen in the state of Connecticut can rely on emergency medical care providers to "answer the call."

Our Mission: To work in partnership with the Department of Public Health, the Connecticut EMS Advisory Board, emergency medical services, public safety, and other providers in the health care and public safety systems to facilitate excellence in emergency medical care for all citizens. To achieve their mission, the regional Councils collectively will pursue the following strategies:

- Conduct and/or oversee education, training, and testing
- Coordinate recruitment, recognition, and retention programs
- Serve as a creative resource & centralized problem solving entity
- Promote statewide uniform standards
- Facilitate effective communications

As non-governmental organizations, the Councils are eligible for private grants. This helps us to provide training equipment and other services at no cost to the state.

Council volunteers donate hundreds of hours of work time each year. This has the effect of magnifying the productivity of each dollar allocated to the Councils.

The Councils, in cooperation with DPH, adopted a strategic plan in 2006 to improve efficiencies and update our goals.

The graph to the right demonstrates that the Council funding has been relatively level since 1979. Inflationary adjustments would put our budget at over \$300,000 per Council today.



